



# THE BLUE LIGHT

**JULY 2008**

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY  
*Governor*

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY  
*Director*

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM  
*Assistant Director*

MAJOR JERRY CONNER  
*ABI Division*

MAJOR JAMES LYONS  
*Administrative Division*

MAJOR HUGH MCCALL  
*Driver License Division*

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL  
*Highway Patrol Division*

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT  
*Protective Services Division*

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS  
*Service Division*



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# The Colonel's Corner



Lt. Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham, Assistant Director

Recently, several members of the Department of Public Safety travelled to Birmingham to take part in and be recognized at the Alabama Sports Festival opening ceremony. This event honored law enforcement officers and civilian law enforcement employees from throughout the state and from every level. Col. Murphy spoke during the ceremony, recognizing active, retired and fallen officers. Those active and retired employees in attendance were presented with the Medal of Distinction, and the families of fallen officers were presented with the Medal of Valor. Events such as this reinforce for our state the importance of law enforcement, the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers, and the fragile nature of life.

As most of you know, we recently lost a member of the DPS family; a young recruit in his first day of training at the ACJTC was tragically taken from us. Ervin Michael Johnston was one of us, if only for a short while. He was laid to rest in his khaki uniform on Saturday, June 21, 2008, surrounded by his classmates and several of the ACJTC staff, Headquarters staff, including Col. Murphy, and a host of state troopers and other law enforcement personnel. I remember hearing once "that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become." Michael chose to be one of us. And although he is gone, he is not forgotten. May Michael rest in peace.

July 4th is nearly upon us. It's a time to celebrate our country's independence with family and friends around the barbecue grill and pool or at a local civic event. During the time — almost a year and a half — I spent on active duty sending volunteers of the National Guard and Reserve to combat zones and other "hot spots" around the world, I discovered a renewed appreciation for what our military does



[Continued on next page.]

# The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

and for what its members miss back here at home. Occasionally I'd receive a note through the chain of command that one of those "volunteers" that I had processed to active duty had made the ultimate sacrifice. It was then that I realized that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I had the honor of attending a ceremony this past week recognizing a group of Alabama guardsmen who returned from a year of active duty in Kuwait. Some of those soldiers were personal friends of mine. I was most proud to stand at attention as the chartered bus arrived, escorted by Alabama state troopers. You see, we do more than write tickets and work wrecks. We, the Department of Public Safety and its employees, proudly take the lead by safely escorting our returning troops to their families, who so eagerly await their return with tears in their eyes and joy in their hearts. Those neighbors, friends and coworkers have sacrificed for more than a year on foreign soil, protecting the freedoms that we enjoy, and often take for granted, each day.

To those DPS members who have volunteered to serve our country and state at home and abroad in times of peace and war, Col. Murphy and I salute you for your dedicated service. Many of your vehicles will soon display a decal commemorating your military service since 9/11. Display it proudly; you've earned it.



I invite each of you to reflect upon the true meaning of our celebration of the Fourth of July, remembering that freedom isn't free. There are many who have fallen and many who will fall to protect it. God Bless America and the Department of Public Safety.



# Motorcycle Troopers 'Tear it Up' on Alabama Roads

Perhaps the most common symbol of Alabama's state troopers, and certainly the most visible, is the trooper car itself. And although the traditional patrol vehicle is most associated with troopers for obvious reasons, it certainly is not the sole vehicle used by the department in executing its mission, nor was it the first.

In a move that harkens back to the founding of the Highway Patrol in 1935, the Department of Public Safety is again using motorcycles in routine enforcement. No longer reserved for ceremonial duties and special traffic control details, the motorcycle trooper today has carved out a niche among the most effective, efficient, and versatile troopers on the road.

"Our motorcycle troopers' work ethic and dedication to traffic safety is first-rate," said Mobile Troop Commander Capt. Tim McGlothlin. "Specifically in reference to Cpl. Brad Napp and Tpr. James Strickland, they're assets to DPS because they efficiently work areas you just can't easily work in a patrol car."

The Napp/Strickland team has numbers to back up their story. There have been several days where the team has written well in excess of 70 tickets in an eight-hour period. More impressively, they pull down those same numbers working Choctaw and Washington counties, where there is no interstate and only about 15,000 residents.

"On one of our most successful days," said Napp, "Strickland and I worked four hours, and in that short amount of time made two DUI arrests, one marijuana possession arrest, and issued numerous other citations, all on a Sunday afternoon."

"They work it," said McGlothlin. "I'm really proud of those guys. They hit the road running, and they don't stop. Their versatility is apparent in everything they do."

Tpr. Bobby White of the Montgomery Post is equally effective, shaving the time it takes to "write" tickets by using an e-ticket system more commonly found in patrol cars.

"Most Alabamians don't expect to see a trooper on a motorcycle.

[Continued on next page.]



# Memorial Ride 2008

The Alabama State Trooper Association staged a May motorcycle ride to honor troopers killed in the line of duty.

Participants in Memorial Ride 2008 met at various starting points throughout the state and rode to Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. In addition to the ride, a memorial service also was held that day to honor the fallen troopers. Raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win a Harley Davidson motorcycle, and tickets were available for purchase for a concert at Garrett Coliseum that evening.

Proceeds from the event benefitted Alabama state troopers by supplementing troopers' life insurance policies.

## Motorcycle Troopers ( C o n t i n u e d )

That sort of adds an element of surprise for people," said White. "People definitely think of trooper cars before they think of us. Also, motorcycles are a great deal of help when special events are concerned."

Napp touts the motorcycles' versatility in enforcement and emergency response. "The bikes are more maneuverable than patrol cars," he said. "I can easily ride down alleys, on sidewalks, and through yards. I can even ride through buildings, if necessary, in responding to emergencies. We respond to traffic crashes, fights and emergencies, and can often respond faster, due to the problems of traffic congestion or pedestrian traffic."

Division Chief Maj. Roscoe Howell said the motorcycles are not a replacement for patrol cars and that they have obvious limitations, but that troopers are using them effectively "as an additional tool to make our highways safer." Highway Patrol currently has 16 motorcycles in routine patrol service, with approval to add 10 more.





# Hammond Takes Flight to Honor WWII Vets

Retired Lt. Col. Harold Hammond recently participated as a guardian in Prattville’s Honor Flight May 17, helping escort 87 World War II veterans who were flown out of the Montgomery airport on a chartered flight to Washington, D.C., to visit the World War II memorial.

Honor Flight is a non-profit, nationwide organization created solely to honor America’s veterans by flying them free of charge to visit their memorials. Priority is given to senior WWII survivors and to the terminally ill.

The Honor Flight program is the brainchild of Earl Morse, a retired Air Force captain and physician’s assistant in Springfield, Ohio, as a way to honor the World War II veterans that he has cared for during the past 27 years. Financial and physical limitations of aging war veterans virtually ensured that they would not see their own memorials in their lifetime. As a pilot, Morse was approached by one of his patients and asked if he could fly him to visit his memorial, free of charge. He did, and the program was born.

From the initial flight, the program spread out across the nation, with communities raising money to charter flights specifically for war veterans. The idea came to the Prattville community a little more than a year ago.

“I first heard about Honor Flight just by reading the local newspaper,” said Hammond. “When I read about it, I immediately jumped on board. Our WWII vets are dying at a rate of 1,200 a day, and there is urgency associated with what we are doing.”

In all, \$55,000 was needed to charter a flight for the veterans to visit Washington, D.C. Prattville managed to raise even more than this amount, and a second flight is planned for October. Rising fuel costs have increased the estimated cost of the October flight to more than \$60,000.

Hammond paid \$400 of his own money to escort two of the 88 veterans on the first Honor Flight. Sadly, one of the 88 veterans died shortly before he could make the trip.

“The day of the Honor Flight was truly one of the best days of my life,” said Hammond. “It truly is a red-letter day. It’s a great day for the Prattville community, a great day for those who participated, and it’s just such an accomplishment to see the entire community come together to support this venture.”

# 'Task Force Zero' Readies Statewide Rollout

Nine specialized DUI vans — one for each troop — are currently being prepped for delivery to be used as BAT-mobiles for Task Force Zero, thanks to the hard work of Highway Patrol and funding by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.



While field sobriety tests have been used for years as a tool to determine impaired drivers, the new TFZ vans will prove invaluable by allowing the department to set up roadside

sobriety checkpoints. Equipped with all the necessary tools — from breathalyzer equipment to emergency lighting and digital/video cameras — the trucks literally take the lab out into the field.

“The new vans are built on the Freightliner MT45 platform,” said Highway Patrol’s Lt. Tim Pullin. “That’s the same truck that you might otherwise know as a FedEx or UPS truck, but that’s where the similarities end. The back of the vehicle is loaded with specialized equipment so that our TFZ troopers can work efficiently in the field.”

Along with two fully functional work stations and a separate breath-testing station, the new vans also will have exterior “scene-lighting,” featuring high-power lamps to more easily allow troopers to work roadside stations at night. The lamps and equipment will all be powered by an on-board generator.

The journey of Task Force Zero is a long and interesting one. The program began as a sort of grassroots campaign by Cpl. Phil Taylor and Tpr. Jay Penton in Montgomery to equip state troopers in battling drunken driving. The two acquired an old bread truck and put a breathalyzer in the back, toted a camera, and set out to apprehend DUI offenders.

The mobile lab caught the attention of Maj. Roscoe Howell and Capt. Marc McHenry at Headquarters, and they sought a way to implement the program statewide.

Last year, Howell expanded the program beyond its origins in Montgomery, creating make-shift labs within other troops, using whatever equipment they had to make a mobile DUI testing facility. Meanwhile, his staff at headquarters sought funding to properly outfit each troop with a new vehicle, suitable for DUI enforcement.

“ADECA agreed that we had a good idea on our hands and awarded us funding in early ’08,” said Pullin. “We put the construction of the trucks out to bid, and Matthews Specialty Vehicles won the bid. Right now, six of the nine trucks have been delivered to Matthews for customization, so we should be in possession of the vehicles shortly.”



## *DPS Helps ATFE Catch 'Free Militia'*

A little more than a year ago, the ABI bomb squad and Highway Patrol tactical teams assisted federal agents in executing search warrants in north Alabama on a group calling itself the “Alabama Free Militia.” Although unknown at the time, this would become one of the largest seizures of weapons from a domestic anti-government group in the United States, and would draw national media attention not once, but twice.

What role did DPS play in this high-level case? First, a uniformed trooper made a traffic stop of one of the group’s leaders, allowing the arrest of that individual without incident. Second, DPS tactical teams executed dynamic entries on specific locations where improvised explosive devices were being manufactured and stored, and where caches of weapons were located. Third, DPS bomb squad personnel made safe more than 130 improvised devices and assisted in the storage of these items. In addition, following the seizures, bomb squad technicians assisted ATFE explosives experts in dismantling some of the improvised hand grenades and improvised 37 mm projectiles to render them safe to allow their use as evidence.

Since last year’s arrests, the seven members of the “Alabama Free Militia” have all been convicted and sentenced in federal court. After the cases were adjudicated, all the improvised explosives seized had to be destroyed, and once again, ATFE reached out to DPS for assistance.

With the help of Cpl. Thad Snyder, a range was established at the Talladega Superspeedway with the assistance of the property managers. Then last month, ATFE explosives agents and the DPS bomb squad disposed of all remaining militia IEDs on national television. Eight explosive shots were conducted by agents, and each shot was televised live on Fox News channel. ATFE media relations since stated that more than 80 different media outlets — including newspaper, television, radio, and Internet — have reported on the disposal in Talladega.



## Crisis Center Tested in Training Scenario

On June 4, the Director's Crisis Center faced a mock-crisis scenario to test the various functions of the center, and to seek suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the center in a real-life crisis incident.

The exercise was designed to test several of the core components of the crisis center. Taking place in real-time, the scenario began with a single suspicious e-mail to the governor. As the plot unfurled, it was the duty of the division chiefs to respond to and handle the situation using their expertise and their available resources.



the performance of the crisis center in the event of a real situation. Suggestions to improve productivity included better use of technology in the room and incorporating a PCO to better track events as they transpire.

"I am impressed with what happened here today," said Col. J. Christopher Murphy following the training exercise. "This is a prime example of people working well together, and I'm pleased with the cooperation and composure of each of you."

"While we may not have used 100 percent of the center's technological capabilities, we certainly gave them a good, hard test drive," Howell reflected. "All the participants had the chance to see, and acquire an appreciation for, how essential it is to have representation from many units crossing divisional lines. Not knowing what was coming next made planning and asset allocation very realistic. In over 30 years of service with the department, this was the best test of our capabilities that I have witnessed."



ABI's Fusion Center supplied pertinent information. Public Information provided insight into the media's response to the events. Information Services assisted with technological demands, and Michael Robinson was on hand to provide guidance. The collaborative efforts of all divisions resulted in a unique synergy.

"The training exercise was realistic in nature," said Maj. Roscoe Howell. "We were faced with various challenges in communication, but dealt with each in a calm, timely, and responsive manner."

"This was truly a great exercise for us," said Maj. Hugh McCall. "This was unique because it allowed us to 'experience' a crisis without the added pressure of its being real. It certainly felt real, though."

For all of the staff in the crisis center, the mock scenario was as much a learning exercise as it was a training exercise, and suggestions were gathered to improve upon





# Firearms Instructors Train Scouts at Tukabatchee

Several DPS firearms instructors left their usual jobs for a week to head off to camp this summer. Cpl. Keith Mickle and Tprs. Edward Bennett, Nance Bishop, and Mike Britton all led various weeks of rifle training at Camp Tukabatchee in Pine Level for the Boy Scouts of America.

The weapons experts taught firearm safety to the campers and assisted many scouts in meeting the requirements to obtain merit badges in rifle shooting. In addition to gun safety, other topics covered by the trooper firearms instructors during camp include the parts of a rifle and their function, weapon cleaning, and the importance of ear and eye protection.

In order to obtain the rifle shooting badge, scouts also must be able to fire 15 shots at a target from 50 feet that can be covered by a quarter.

“This has been a wonderful experience for me,” said Bishop. “Unfortunately, I wasn’t exposed to scouting when I was young, but this is definitely a character-building experience for all these kids, and it’s really important to instill weapon safety in children. It’s the responsible thing to do.”



# Haney Wins AAMVA Customer Service Excellence Award



Driver License Examiner Adriane Haney has been honored by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators for excellence in customer service. Haney was selected as AAMVA's regional award winner for Customer Service Excellence, and received her award during the association's annual conference in Hilton Head, S.C., June 8-12.

Nominating Haney for the award was Cpl. Andy Pike. AAMVA Vice President Dianne Graham noted that, in reviewing the nomination, it was clear to her that Haney's dedication to the department has benefited Public Safety and that DPS is fortunate to have such a devoted employee.

"The awards ceremony was so nice," said Haney. "When I was first notified of receiving the award, I didn't fully realize the magnitude of what it meant. It truly was an honor being chosen as the recipient, and the conference at Hilton Head was wonderful."

This is the second year in a row that an employee of DPS has been selected for the award. Last year's winner, Stacy Sizemore, was selected for her impeccable work standards and dedication to the department.

## Crash Data Retrieval an Asset to Traffic Homicide Investigators

Following last year's government mandate that all cars be equipped with a crash data retrieval system between 2012 and 2014, Traffic Homicide investigators are in the process of training all 107 THI troopers to be CDR technicians. Leading the THI training on CDR are Cpl. Shane Porter and Tpr. Darryl Phillips.

Both say that understanding how CDR works begins with understanding how airbags deploy in the event of a crash. All modern motor vehicles are equipped with sensors that detect rapid deceleration of a vehicle. This rapid deceleration triggers the airbags to deploy, and in cars equipped with CDR technology, this also tells the car to log pertinent data, such as speed, engine RPMs, and whether the brake is applied. The saved data provides THI with vital information from five seconds before a crash occurs to the exact moment of impact.

"Crash data retrieval has already proven itself as useful in the field," explained Cpl. Rick Ward. "In practice, the system is very similar to the so-called black box in airplanes. The logged data can be very telling."

While CDR isn't exactly a new technology — the first CDR kits were delivered to DPS in 2002 — the technology is only useful if car companies incorporate it into their vehicles.

"CDR is great, but it's only great if it's supported by the car manufacturer. Before the mandate, we could only count on this information from GM or Ford cars. Pretty soon, all the cars on the road will use CDR, and that is going to benefit THI tremendously," said Ward.

"Traffic homicide has always used various indicators, such as tire marks, to determine the cause of crashes. CDR is one of those indicators. It's another piece of information; it's another piece of the puzzle," said Ward. "The more information we have, the more detailed the picture becomes."

### *In Memoriam*

DPS is mourning the loss of these friends and co-workers. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Tpr. Demetrice M. Banks  
Ervin Michael Johnston  
Col. George F. McMinn  
Melissa Paige Thomas



# People You Know!

## *New Employees*

Michael Aaron	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Johnathan Appling	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Joshua Bailey	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Michael Bolden	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Richard Bosarge	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Christopher Brown	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Brian Cagle	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jeffrey Christian	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Mike Davis	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
William Elston	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Ashley Fetter	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Cameron Fillinghim	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jerome Franks	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Tashanna Garcia	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
John Gardner Jr.	5/16/08	Communications Tech. II	SER/Montgomery
Ron Hodge	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Carl Johnson	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Kevin Johnson	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Tyler Kane	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Randall Lee	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Aaron Leger	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Bruce Little	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Charles McCord	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Regina McKelvey	5/16/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika
Brett Manuel	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Terry Nelson	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Darrell Newman	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Gary Peek	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Robert Pettit	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Bradley Pitts	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Matthew Rabren	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Ronald Redding	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
James Rice	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Adam Robinson	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Eric Salvador	6/18/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Danny Summerford	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Adam Thomas	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
David Tyner	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Justin Vann	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jacob Zimmerman	6/15/08	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC

## *Promotions*

Terry Howell	6/01/08	Sergeant	ABI/Investigative Operations
Mary Mann	6/01/08	ASA II	HP/Alexander City
Sylvester Martin	6/01/08	Lieutenant	DL/Hearing/Fraud
Debra Maund	6/01/08	PCO II	HP/Opelika
Deidra Nesmith	6/01/08	ASA II	SER/Communications Engineering
Jonathan O'Rear	6/01/08	PCO II	HP/Huntsville
Reneta Poole	5/16/08	Accounting Technician	ADM/Financial Services
Kennesha Richardson	6/01/08	Accounting Technician	ADM/Financial Services
John Singletary	6/01/08	Corporal	HP/Decatur
Robert Thornton	6/01/08	Sergeant	ABI/Identification

# People You Know!



## *Transfers*

Chris Carter	6/01/08	Corporal	HP/Huntsville
Wayne Dailey	5/16/08	Corporal	PS/Administrative
Phillip Greene	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/MCSU
Reginald Harkins	5/16/08	Trooper	PS/Dignitary Protection
Emily Hodges	6/01/08	PCO I	HP/Tuscaloosa
Valeria Jernigan	6/01/08	DL Specialist	DL/Safety Responsibility
Darryl Johnson	5/16/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika Examining
Thomas Lolley	5/16/08	Corporal	PS/Dignitary Protection
Regina Manuel	6/01/08	DL Specialist	DL/Reinstatement
Joseph McDonald	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/Quad Cities
Tracy Morgan	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/Evergreen
Glenn Odom	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/Huntsville
Misty Price	5/16/08	ASA II	DL/Information Services
Phillip Ray	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/Opelika
Jeffrey Reaves	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/Huntsville
James Richburg	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/Evergreen
Anthony Smith	5/16/08	Trooper	PS/Protective Services
Avery Smith	6/01/08	Trooper	HP/MCSU
John Smith	6/01/08	Sergeant	PS/Division Operations
Will Wright Jr.	5/16/08	Corporal	PS/Dignitary Protection

## *Resignations*

James Brown Jr.	4/18/08	PCO I	HP/Gadsden
Janet Clausen-Baggett	5/30/08	ASA II	ABI/Administrative
Jeffrey Grizzard	5/16/08	Trooper	HP/Gadsden
Latia Myles	5/30/08	ASA II	SER/Communications Engineering
Connie Nail	6/13/08	Investigative Tech. I	DL/Hearing

## *Retirement*

Willie Alexander	5/31/08	Trooper	HP/Alexander City
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# MCSU Participates in Trucker Competitions

DPS Motor Carrier Safety Unit troopers recently participated in several truck driving competitions in the Montgomery and Tuscaloosa areas. MCSU troopers served as judges for all three competitions that were held Sunday, March 30, at the Winn Dixie warehouse in Hope Hull; Saturday, April 12, at the UPS Hub facility in Montgomery; and Sunday, April 13, at the Rite Aid facility in Tuscaloosa.

Commercial vehicle operators from each company competed against fellow employees for prizes and the opportunity to take part in driving competition at the state level. Driving obstacle courses were constructed that allowed drivers to showcase their individual driving abilities through a variety of driving maneuvers and other tasks.

These competitions are held each year by a large number of trucking companies throughout the state, with first and second place winners representing their companies at the state level of competition. The events serve the interests of highway and traffic safety by emphasizing the importance of safe driving skills and promoting positive, cooperative interaction between commercial vehicle operators and troopers.



This year, the Alabama Trucking Association conducted the state competition May 9-10 in Bessemer. Drivers competed in eight classes and completed a written exam, conducted a pre-trip inspection, and completed the skills driving course utilizing a variety of trucks and trailers. The winners of each class will go on to represent Alabama at the National Truck Driving Championship to be held in Houston. Alabama usually sends some 400 drivers to compete nationally each year.

Historically, Alabama truck drivers have performed well each year during this event. Last year, Alphonso Lewis, a Roadway driver from Montgomery, was named Grand Champion for the national competition, having outscored all the other drivers.

COURTESY, SERVICE, AND PROTECTION SINCE 1935

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THE BLUE LIGHT

Also at the national competition, the CVSA conducts a commercial vehicle inspection competition for motor carrier safety inspectors. DPS sends a motor carrier safety inspector each year to represent the state during this competition. Representing DPS this year, Tpr. Mark Hall will compete, and Sgt. Donte Vincent will judge.

The competition consists of a level I inspection, a haz-mat inspection, cargo tank inspection, motor coach inspection, a written test on Federal Motor Carrier regulations, and a personal interview. This is an excellent opportunity for troopers from Motor Carrier to represent the department on a national level.

*Scenes from Tuscaloosa's  
Take Back Our Highways: 50/4*



Alabama Department of



Public Safety

## RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



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### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

### Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.  
PLEASE EMAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:  
RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

## On Your Calendar

Friday, July 4

*Independence Day*

Monday, September 1

*Labor Day*

Monday, October 13

*Columbus Day*

Tuesday, November 11

*Veteran's Day*

June 18, 2008

To Whom it May Concern:

On April 20 of this year, a trooper knocked on my door between 11:30p.m. and midnight. He had the hardest job anyone in law enforcement ever has to do.

The trooper was at my door to tell me my son Jack had died in an accident on Riverton Rose Trail in Colbert County.

I have no idea what his name is, but I would like to thank him. His kindness and understanding during my breakdown will never be forgotten.

-Sonya Lee Arnold  
Athens, Alabama